CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Vieux Carré Commission

Guidelines for Lighting & Security Cameras

LIGHTING & SECURITY CAMERAS

Outdoor lighting is an important factor for the sense of safety, security and well-being it provides residents, workers and visitors after dark. A consistently lit sidewalk can invite an evening stroll, while one that is poorly lit or has highly contrasting light and dark areas can appear foreboding. Appropriate lighting:

- Allows people to feel safer while walking
- Permits evening use of outdoor spaces such as a courtyard
- Enhances the qualities and character of the French Quarter, while maintaining the overall ambiance and charm
- Can be a decorative element that complements a building's architectural features and qualities
- May deter a potential trespasser, intruder or criminal

A security camera can serve as a deterrent as well as record a potential intruder's activity. Image clarity, enhanced by appropriate lighting, is crucial if footage will be shared with authorities to identify a suspect or prosecute a criminal.

SECTION INDEX

The Vieux Carré Commission (VCC) has jurisdiction to review and approve all lighting and security camera installations, removals, modifications, materials and features. This section includes:

- Importance of Lighting; Streetscape Lighting in the Vieux Carré – 11-2
- Light Quality; Light Intensity in the Vieux Carré – 11-3
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All applicants must obtain a Vieux Carré Commission (VCC) permit as well as all other necessary City permits prior to proceeding with any work. Reviewing and becoming familiar with these *Guidelines* during the early stages of a project can assist in moving a project quickly through the permit approval process, saving an applicant both time and money. Staff review of all details is required to ensure proposed work is appropriate to a specific property.

Guidelines addressing additional historic property topics are available at the VCC office and on its website at www.nola.gov/vcc. For more information, to clarify whether a proposed project requires VCC review, or to obtain a property rating of significance or a permit application, contact the VCC at (504) 658-1420.

The first step in using these *Guidelines* is to understand a property's color rating. The rating corresponds to the historical and/or architectural significance and then determines what type of change will be permitted and the review process required for each property under the jurisdiction of the VCC.

Review boxes provided throughout the *Guidelines* indicate the lowest level of review required for the specified work. Staff can forward any application to the Architectural Committee (AC) and/or the Commission for further consideration.

IMPORTANCE OF LIGHTING

In the same way it is hard to know the size of a dark room, it is difficult to comprehend outdoor space at night without light. In many ways, light defines outdoor "space" and containment, particularly with the illumination of ground and wall planes. When walls are lit, a space can feel large and open, enhancing the sense of security. By contrast, dark surfaces, particularly walls and the sky, may feel overbearing and vast. The type and placement of lighting play an important role in maintaining the authentic historic character of a building and its surrounding area. When modifying or installing lighting, consideration should be given to lighting levels needed to convey a sense of security, the residential or commercial use of the building and/or block, and the *tout ensemble* of the Vieux Carré. (Refer to *Tout Ensemble, Guidelines Introduction*, page 01-3.)

For a residential building, exterior lighting is located near an entrance door, on the balcony, gallery or porch, and under a roof overhang. At times, there may be a need for additional security lighting on the side and/or rear elevations of a building. At a commercial property, lighting located along the street frontage provides a safe and welcoming path for visitors in the evening; allows semi-public enjoyment of an exterior space used for outdoor dining or entertainment; and provides illumination of shop-front display windows, highlighting merchandise for potential customers. (Refer to *Storefront Interiors, Guidelines for Storefronts*, page 13-9.)

DEFINITIONS

Ambient Lighting: Lighting throughout an area that produces general illumination

Color Rendering Index (CRI): A measure of the degree of color shift an object undergoes when illuminated by a light source as compared to the same object when illuminated by a reference source of comparable color temperature – The CRI range is 0 – 100 (100 meaning no color shift, representing the CRI of sunlight and/or an incandescent lamps)

Color Temperature: Refers to the visual characteristics of a light source – A lower temperature is warmer, while a higher temperature light tends to be colder/more blue – Expressed in degrees Kelvin

Direct Lighting: Lighting involving a luminary that distributes 90 to 100% of the emitted light in the specific direction to be illuminated – The term usually refers to ambient light emitted in a downward direction

Footcandle (fc): Measure of the intensity of light – A unit of illuminance equivalent to the illumination produced by a candle at a distance of 1 foot and equal to 1 lumen per square foot or 10.72 lux

Indirect Lighting: Lighting in which the light emitted by a source is reflected or diffused (such as off of a wall surface)

Kelvin (K): Unit of reference used to designate the color temperature of a light source (Refer to *Color Temperature*)

Light along a sidewalk can come from a variety of sources including light mounted to a façade, through a storefront window, from a sign or awning illumination and/or from street lights. Consistency in light along a sidewalk can provide a sense of safety. Uneven lighting results in dark areas and/or hotspots as shown above.

STREETSCAPE LIGHTING IN THE VIEUX CARRÉ

The most effective pedestrian lighting will provide a consistent level of brightness or intensity along the length of a sidewalk, with highlighting of key buildings and/or corner properties, such as a corner store. This reinforces the sense of safety while providing a visual destination and a measurable distance.

It is important to keep in mind that a single brightly lit property along a block can make an adjacent space seem dark. For this reason, it is best to collaborate with neighbors to achieve consistent and balanced sidewalk lighting levels on a block. (Refer to *Light Intensity in the Vieux Carré*, page 11-3, for appropriate levels.)

To achieve proper balance, there are many light sources to consider including public street lighting, exterior lights on private property, sign illumination, as well as interior light passing through windows onto the sidewalk. Collectively, these light sources can visually join the properties along a sidewalk to create a path for evening pedestrians.

LIGHT QUALITY

Generally, a light bulb produces what is perceived by the human eye to be white light, which in reality is comprised of a rainbow of colors. The more balanced the rainbow of colors is in artificial light, the greater the clarity and more accurate the perception of color. If an object appears to be a different color under artificial light than natural light, then the quality of light is said to be poor. The Color Rendering Index (CRI) is the measure of the degree of color shift an object experiences from one light source to another, such as from interior lighting to sunlight. The CRI has a range of 1-100, with 100 representing no color shift, available in sunlight or incandescent lamps. **A CRI of 80 or greater is recommended for an exterior use in the Vieux Carré.**

Along with the rainbow of colors determining the quality and character of artificial light, the overall perception of color can range from warm to cool. In natural terms, warm light can be thought of as a sunset while cool light is a crisp, blue sky. In terms of artificial light, warm light is similar to the light found in a parking lot or along a highway that produces an orange glow, while cool light is generally associated with an older fluorescent light bulb that makes a person's skin appear washed-out and sickly.

The warmness or coolness of light, or color temperature, is measured in degrees Kelvin. **For general exterior use, the most appropriate light bulb in the Vieux Carré is one with high color rendering that has a warm 3000K color temperature.** To light a façade, the temperature of the light can be 2700K, 3000K or 4000K. All the lights on an individual façade should share the same temperature. To satisfy these criteria, there are a variety of light bulbs available. (Refer to *Designing with Light,* page 11-4, and *Lamps*, page 11-6.)

Fluorescent tube lights emit very cool light, create glare and are not allowed for exterior lighting in the Vieux Carré. Sidewalk seating and tables are not allowed without a franchise agreement with the City.

Light intensity needs vary. An area with a lively evening street life, such as the commercial section of Bourbon Street, should be brighter than a residential street. Colored lamps are not allowed in the Vieux Carré.

LIGHT INTENSITY IN THE VIEUX CARRÉ

It is important to recognize that appropriate light levels are dependent upon the level of use a building experiences in the evening. Commercial properties including hotels, shops, restaurants, bars and entertainment venues, or those that have evening foot traffic, such as a corner store or an institutional building, will often require higher light levels than a residential streetscape.

While many assume that a brightly lit exterior space is beneficial for a sense of safety and security, this is often not the case. Outdoor lighting is most effective when it has a relatively even intensity on the surfaces where it is needed such as along a sidewalk or walkway. A bright area of light can cause glare or a "hot spot" that, if sufficiently contrasted, might result in disability glare, temporary blindness or disorientation for a person until their eyes readjust. As a result, consistency in the lighting level is important, as is the need to minimize the glare from an over-lit space or an exposed light bulb that could temporarily blind a pedestrian.

The measurement for the intensity of light is a footcandle (fc). When evaluating footcandles, the VCC considers the intensity of light as it hits a surface such as a sidewalk or wall. The following guidelines are utilized to determine the appropriate brightness for lighting a sidewalk surface in the Vieux Carré:

- Private Residential Use: Illumination along the sidewalk of 0.2 fc to 2.0 fc
- Commercial / High Intensity Evening Use: Illumination along the sidewalk of 0.2 fc to 5.0 fc

When calculating the light intensity, particularly at a commercial building, the total light emitted from street lights, through the building's windows, and from sign and awning illumination should be considered. (Refer to *Storefront Interiors, Guidelines for Storefronts*, page 13-9, and *Sign & Awning Illumination, Guidelines for Signs & Awnings*, page 12-10.)

COLORED LIGHT

Colored light, typically produced with a colored bulb or light with a colored filter, while intended to be theatrical, often creates a visual spectacle and disharmonious atmosphere that has no connection to the color of the building itself or the Historic District. As a result, **the use of an intentionally colored bulb or filter is not allowed in the Vieux Carré.**

AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES

The VCC recognizes the need for safety at an ATM (Automatic Teller Machine). As a result, the VCC allows supplemental lighting on the face of the ATM device up to 3.0 fc and, on the sidewalk, up to 5.0 fc. All proposed lighting must be submitted for review and approved by the VCC. (Refer to *Walk-Up Services, Guidelines for Storefronts*, page 13-11.)

The three downlights are evenly spaced and recessed within the soffit (or underside) of the roof overhang. The lighting across both the façade and the sidewalk is generally even without creating any "hot spots". This is a good example of residential façade lighting.

DESIGNING WITH LIGHT

Ambient light can be used to "sculpt" and define a space, so it is important to approach lighting design with a clear intent and goal. To provide safe passage along a sidewalk, discreetly placed and regularly spaced downlights can provide even illumination along the length of a building. For illumination at a building entrance, options include a downlight above the door or, where appropriate, a single or pair of decorative light fixtures.

While sidewalk and entrance lighting can be fairly straightforward, designing with light to illuminate architectural features or "wash" a wall with light generally requires the expertise of a designer. A designer can model the light to determine appropriate light level, light placement, bulb type and wattage for the best quality result.

- Define the goal of the lighting design, such as to illuminate a surface or an architectural feature – *At a monumental building or a corner building, avoid only lighting the first floor under a projecting balcony or gallery as that can cause a façade to appear bisected (or cut in two)*
- Identify the specific area(s) to be illuminated to achieve the design goal
- Identify and install the lowest level of light intensity required to meet the lighting goal for the building, its use, streetscape and/or block
- Select and locate each light and/or lamp to provide visual consistency, avoiding excessive contrast from a bright to a dark spot
- Select each fixture to ensure light is directed towards the desired surface or feature without spillover beyond the curb line, property line or into the night sky
- Select an appropriate lamp control for use, such as a motion sensor for security lighting, a light sensor or timer to activate lights and/or a dimming feature to allow adjustment based upon intensity of use – *These controls can conserve energy, extend lamp life and save money*

Traditional, decorative, low-level, light fixtures are mounted between each of the arched openings along the sidewalk. The multiple fixtures provide relatively even light intensity on the wall and sidewalk surfaces.

A corner building that is illuminated on all floors can act as a focal point along a streetscape.

The downlights illuminate the entrances and provide even light along the sidewalk.

Consistent lighting along a sidewalk provides a sense of security while potential customers stroll and look into display windows during the evening.

Illuminating the entrance highlights the architectural features of the door and its surround, is welcoming for visitors and allows safe passage up the entrance steps.

The measure of light intensity along a sidewalk should include the light passing through windows. In this case, the window patterns are projected onto the walkway surface.

Due to higher foot traffic and greater evening activity, a corner store tends to be more brightly illuminated than surrounding residences, particularly at the ground floor.

The most common commercially available lamps are incandescent, fluorescent and LED (left to right). All three lamps above fit into a standard incandescent socket. They come in a variety of shapes and types, with various electrical connections.

LAMPS

There are a variety of lamps, also known as light bulbs, available on the market today, many of which offer longer life and more energy efficiency than a traditional incandescent lamp. In some cases, the type of lamp may be dictated by the requirements of the light fixture and its intended use. For a decorative fixture, such as an electrified traditional gas lamp, an incandescent lamp that evokes the appearance of a flame might be most appropriate, while an ambient light located in a harder to reach location might necessitate a long-lasting lamp to reduce the frequency of required replacement.

The most common commercially-available types of lamps are incandescent, fluorescent and LED. It is important to keep in mind that there is great variation in the light quality of fluorescent and LED lamps produced by different manufacturers.

Incandescent Lamps

An incandescent lamp is a traditional light source in which light is produced by an electric current conducted through a filament heated to visible radiation. An incandescent source ranges in color temperature from 2700K to 3000K and have a CRI of 100. Incandescent lamps have a relatively short life-span, requiring more frequent replacement, and emit a lot of heat during operation.

Fluorescent Lamps

A fluorescent lamp is a low-pressure mercury electric-discharge lamp in which a fluorescing coating transforms some of the energy into visible light. Older varieties can have a warming period that can include flickering rather than the instant-on typical of an incandescent lamp. A fluorescent lamp is more energy efficient than an incandescent lamp, and has a longer life-span. As it reaches the end of its life, it can start to flicker and turn pink. Fluorescent lamps are available in a range of color temperatures from 2700K to 6500K and a CRI ranging from 55 to 99. A compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) incorporates additional electronics into the base of the lamp, allowing it to fit into a traditional incandescent light bulb socket. **Because a fluorescent lamp include toxic mercury, care should be taken if it breaks, and its disposal must follow City requirements.**

LED Lamps

A light-emitting diode (LED) lamp is much more energy efficient than either an incandescent or fluorescent lamp and has a significantly longer life-span and the instant-on functionality like an incandescent lamp. Although the initial cost of a LED lamp is higher, the reduced operating costs and associated maintenance have long-term financial benefits. Similar to a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), LED lamps are available that fit into a traditional incandescent light bulb socket.

One of the principal differences between LED and other types of lamps is that LEDs do not emit light in all directions. This can be beneficial, particularly in exterior applications, where the goal is to direct ambient light onto a specific surface such as a sidewalk or building element while minimizing spillover onto an adjacent property or into the night sky. If more overall illumination is desired, multiple lamps might be required. The color temperature and CRI range of LED lamps are similar to that of fluorescent lamps with advancements in LED technology continually improving the quality of light.

LAMPS IN THE VIEUX CARRÉ

For a more uniform appearance, all lamps used to illuminate a surface should be from the same manufacturer and have the same level of brightness. If possible, all lamps should be replaced at the same time as the brightness and color of some lamps may change over time. In addition, a lamp generally should have a CRI of 80 or greater and a color rendering of 3000K. (Refer to *Light Quality*, page 11-3.)

When selecting a lamp for decorative light fixture:

- An incandescent lamp is recommended, perhaps in a "flame" shape at a gas-style lantern, if the lamp will be exposed to view
- A LED lamp might be appropriate if the actual bulb will not be directly visible to view, such as when the fixture has frosted glass
- The light bulb, or lamp, should be less bright to allow the appreciation of the fixture, and generally limited to 40 watts for an incandescent lamp or 12 watts for a LED, unless dimmable

When selecting a lamp for ambient or security lighting:

- A LED lamp is highly recommended

Ambient and security lights are typically powered on for long periods of time, and LED lights have an extended life-span and are very energy efficient. As a result, they require less frequent replacement minimizing costs, the need for access ladders, etc. In addition, because an LED lamp is directionally focused, it can target a specific surface without spill over onto an adjacent property or into the night sky.

A compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulb that does not have the form of a traditional incandescent lamp, such as a pear or globe shape, must be concealed from view.

The clear glass lenses at most decorative fixtures allow the light source, either a gas flame or an electric bulb, to be visible. The use of a visible compact fluorescent bulb is not allowed.

A decorative fixture can be simple or elaborate. They are available in many shapes, sizes and finishes. The selection of decorative lighting should be appropriate to the building type and style.

DECORATIVE LIGHTING

The purpose of a decorative light fixture is generally to draw attention to the design of the fixture in addition to the illumination. It represents the only type of non-seasonal lighting that should be highly visible at a façade, and great care should be taken in its selection. When mounted to a building, a decorative light fixture is meant to be seen as an additional feature that is part of an overall building composition during the day and night. Typical types of decorative lighting in the French Quarter include gas and electric lamps, hanging lamps and wall sconces.

When a decorative lamp is illuminated, it becomes highly visible and attracts attention. The light bulb, or lamp, in electric decorative lighting should be less bright to allow appreciation of the fixture, which often can be fitted with gas. Because of its low lighting level, a decorative light is the only type of light permitted to emit light in all directions, including into the night sky.

Holiday and event lighting is festive and celebratory. However, lights installed for more than 90 days, including string lights in a courtyard or on a tree, are subject to VCC review.

Seasonal Decorative Lighting & Displays

Seasonal decorative lighting or displays for holidays like Mardi Gras, Halloween and Christmas, as well as lights associated with special events, sports teams or seasons, can create a festive atmosphere for the residents and visitors of the French Quarter. These lights are to be installed for a short period of time and in a manner that does not necessitate permanent electrical wiring or conduit. When installing seasonal decorative lighting, great care should be taken to minimize potential damage to the building fabric from an anchor and/or penetration through a wall or architectural element. **Seasonal decorative lights are not typical of the historic character of the Vieux Carré and should be removed promptly following the holiday or event.**

DECORATIVE LIGHTING IN THE VIEUX CARRÉ

With the exception of seasonal decorative lights, all other decorative exterior lighting fixture types should be:

- Compatible with the building in terms of its style, type and period of construction
- Limited in number to avoid a cluttered appearance
- Located near a focal point of the building, such as the primary entrance door
- Installed in a manner that is harmonious with the building's design, such as evenly spaced on a balcony, gallery, or porch bay, or centered on or around an element such as a door, carriageway or window
- Scaled appropriately for the proposed location
- Constructed of materials appropriate to the building's period, type and style as well as the lighting design – **Faux historic materials, such as varnished or polished brass, are not appropriate in the Vieux Carré**

Gas Lighting

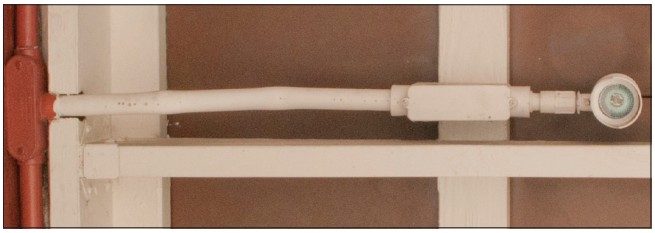
Care should be taken in the installation of a gas line to minimize the visual appearance of the piping while maintaining access to all shut-off valves.

Electric Lighting

When selecting the light bulb or lamp for non-gas decorative lighting, it is highly recommended that it be limited to 40 watts for an incandescent lamp or 12 watts for a LED, unless dimmable. **The use of a colored lamp, glass or film at a fixture is prohibited**. If the lamp is visible, it should be compatible to the design and scale of the fixture. **A visible compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) is not allowed in the Vieux Carré**. (Refer to *Lamps,* page 11-6.)

Seasonal Lighting & Displays

Decorative lighting and displays installed for more than 90 days are subject to VCC review and must be approved. These include light strings, often white "Christmas" lights, that are sometimes used as ambient lighting in a courtyard or to wrap a tree trunk and/or limbs.



The ambient LED downlight and conduit are located under the projecting balcony. ***They are painted to match adjacent surfaces when viewed walking along the sidewalk,*** *becoming more visible when looking straight up.*

This LED light is small and directs light downwards. Installation and wiring must meet electrical code requirements.

A garden fixture should direct light downwards.

To minimize the appearance of the fixture, ambient lighting may be installed inside a soffit vent at a roof overhang.

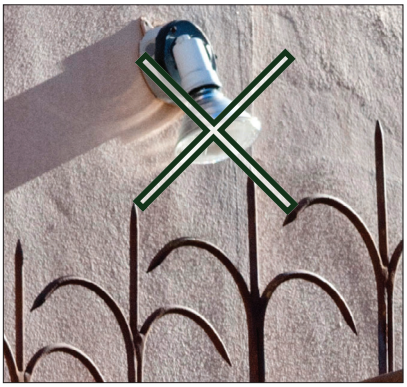
AMBIENT & SECURITY LIGHTING

In ambient lighting and security lighting, the light that is produced by a fixture is more important than the appearance of the light fixture.

Ambient Lighting

Ambient lighting provides a wash of general illumination on a sidewalk, entrance door, balcony, gallery, porch, walkway or courtyard. As the emphasis of ambient lighting is the illumination rather than the fixture, all ambient lights should be small, unobtrusive and installed as discreetly as possible. It should be focused and directed where needed, while minimizing upward light which can result in light pollution into the sky and disrupt nocturnal and migratory animal habits. Examples of unobtrusive lights include recessed lighting at a porch or gallery ceiling, a light shining through a soffit vent and courtyard lighting directed down to illuminate the ground plane. Because ambient lights are minimally visible and are not meant to be decorative, they tend to be relatively inexpensive.

The use of an exterior floodlight or spot light is prohibited in the Vieux Carré. It is recommended that exterior lights be switched off during daylight hours to minimize appearance, glare and energy consumption.



The use of an exterior floodlight or spotlight is prohibited in the Vieux Carré. A security light at side alley or courtyard must be discreet and shielded to direct light onto the walkway surface.

Security Lighting

Security lighting includes lighting that is activated by a motion sensor or in conjunction with an alarm sensor. It should be located as discreetly as possible at an interior courtyard and concealed from public and sidewalk view. The number of security lights should be limited, and they should be as small and unobtrusive as possible.

AMBIENT & SECURITY LIGHTING IN THE VIEUX CARRÉ

With the exception of decorative lights, all other exterior lighting fixture types should be:

- Discreet, with the balanced illumination being the most important element
- Focused to illuminate a surface such as a stoop, porch, sidewalk or walkway, with minimal light spillover onto an adjacent property or into the night sky
- Selected to complement the installation requirements and aesthetics as related to the building's architecture
- Simple, generally cylindrical in form, without a decorative feature or embellishment
- Unobtrusive, limited to 3-inches in diameter and 7-inches in depth – A recessed, ground-mounted up-light may be up to 6-inches in diameter
- Matched to the color of the surface upon which the light fixture is to be mounted, or painted to match
- Able to direct light, minimize glare and prevent spillover onto an adjacent property with a shield such as a louver, baffle or cowl to focus light
- Made for outdoor use, vandal resistant and properly installed
- Accessible to allow for routine maintenance such as bulb replacement

When selecting the light bulb or lamp for ambient and security lighting, it is highly recommended that a LED lamp be utilized for longevity and energy efficiency.

There are certain types of lamps that are prohibited in the Vieux Carré including floodlights, spotlights, intentionally colored light bulbs, fluorescent tube lights and visible compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). (Refer to *Lamps,* page 11-6.)

LIGHTING & SECURITY

The general misconception is that bright lighting deters crime. Highly contrasting light, including a very bright light, can require time for vision to adjust, causing temporary loss of clarity and focus (Refer to *Light Intensity in the Vieux Carré*, page 11-3). Rather than brightly lighting a space, the use of ambient lighting is recommended to allow for general visual surveillance and to encourage a sense of safety and security. One instance in which it might be desirable to include bright lighting is where security lighting is activated by a motion sensor at a non-street location such as in a courtyard or side alley. The motion sensor could be located along the top of a fence or wall and act as a deterrent for an intruder.

It is important to bear in mind that a security camera generally requires light to a capture clear image. If considering the installation of a security camera, it is important to understand the camera manufacturer's requirements for brightness and Color Rendering Index for optimal performance. (Refer to *Light Quality,* page 11-3, and *Security Cameras*, page 11-10.)

Lighting is generally required for a security camera to capture a clear image. Colored lights can decrease the clarity of security footage making it difficult to identify a potential intruder or criminal. The use of a floodlight, spot light and/or colored light is prohibited by the VCC. All security light fixtures should be as discreet as possible.

LIGHTING GUIDE

The VCC highly recommends referencing the *Exterior Lighting Design Guidelines* for more specific information regarding approvable lighting options and placement related to a building's type and style, prior to submitting an application for exterior lighting.

The VCC requires submission of the following information for the review of all proposed exterior lighting:

- Manufacturer's specification sheets with size and finish of the light(s) and mounting bracket(s) and fastener(s)
- Detailed drawings and/or annotated photographs with location of the light(s), bracket(s) and all exposed exterior wiring components clearly shown
- Elevations of existing architectural elements and all adjacent elements and details around the area proposed for the light(s) installation

THE VCC RECOMMENDS:

- Using a wireless lighting device with a discreetly located solar collector at a walkway, courtyard or yard whenever possible
- Using a motion detector for security lighting at a side walkway or private courtyard
- Locating mounting hardware for lighting in a mortar joint of a masonry wall, or at a flat plaster or non-decorative portion of siding or millwork
- Installing a lamp control appropriate for use, such as a motion sensor for security lighting, light sensor or timer, to activate lights and a dimming feature to allow adjustment based upon intensity of use – All of these controls can conserve energy and extend lamp life
- Installing a LED lamp with a CRI of 80 or greater and a color rendering of 3000K

THE VCC REQUIRES:

- Selecting decorative lighting appropriate to the building type, style and mounting location
- Minimizing the size of an ambient or security light fixture and locating it discreetly
- Selecting lighting that is simple in form, generally cylindrical, without a decorative feature and as small as possible, limited up to 3-inches in diameter and 7-inches in depth – A recessed, ground-mounted up-light may be up to 6-inches in diameter
- Matching the color of the ambient or security lighting fixture to the color of the surface upon which it is mounted or painting it to match
- Directing ambient and security lighting with a louver, baffle or cowl to minimize glare and prevent spill over onto an adjacent property
- Submitting for review all traditional temporary lights or a display, such as seasonal Christmas lights or a holiday display, installed for longer than 90-days
- Minimizing the use of lights that direct light upwards, and providing a louver or similar shield to control the direction of each light

THE VCC DOES NOT ALLOW:

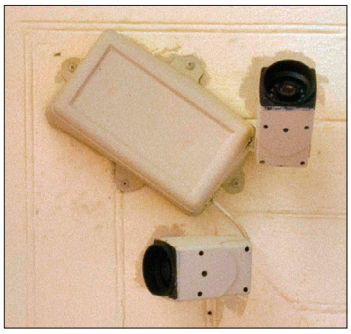
- Inoperable lighting – All inoperable, non-historic lighting must be removed
- Inoperable or unused wiring or conduit – All existing inoperable or unused wiring or conduit must be removed
- A floodlight or spotlight, a mercury vapor, sodium vapor or fluorescent tube lamp, visible CFL lamp in non-traditional shapes or colored light

A bullet camera can be very small and effective. All aspects of a camera's installation, including mounting brackets, hardware, and wiring are subject to VCC review.

SECURITY CAMERAS

Security cameras have proliferated in the Vieux Carré as they have become more affordable and miniaturized. Cameras serve a wide variety of security functions and, if selected and located properly, will intrude minimally upon the historic streetscape and building fabric. For use in identifying and prosecuting an offender, it is best to select a camera with good image resolution and depth of vision field.

The VCC strives to limit the intrusive nature of security cameras and to provide a property owner with methods for proper installation under the VCC's permit process. Understanding that camera technology is continuing to evolve to create more discreet cameras, **the VCC encourages the selection of the smallest camera possible to meet security needs.**



These cameras, located below a roof overhang, are oriented towards the front and side of the building. The cameras are small and the housings, junction box and wiring are all painted to match the mounting surface color, decreasing visibility.

The large and visually intrusive New Orleans Police Department interface cameras that include large mounting and transmission devices are no longer being installed by the City. The VCC does not allow the mounting of a private security camera on the column or post of a gallery or porch, or on a lamp post.

This security camera is very small and located adjacent to the capital to minimize its visibility.

Private Security Cameras

The majority of cameras in the French Quarter are private security cameras. These cameras are installed at both residential and commercial locations to help the resident or businesses monitor activities. In some instances the best vantage point for a camera might be from an adjacent property. The VCC encourages neighbors to work together to provide each other with the best security options.

When considering private security camera options, there are generally two types that are allowed by the VCC: lipstick- or bullet-style units and hemispherical dome units. Although the use of the smallest possible camera is encouraged, the maximum size of a permitted camera varies based upon the property's zoning area.

Security Cameras in Vieux Carré Entertainment District (VCE) Zoned Areas:

- Small, cylindrical, lipstick or bullet-style units, 4-inches maximum in diameter and under 10-inches in length
- Small hemispherical dome units, no more than 8-inches in diameter and no taller than 8-inches

Security Cameras in Zoning Areas Other than the VCE:

- Small, cylindrical, lipstick or bullet-style units, 3-inches maximum in diameter and under 8-inches in length
- Small hemispherical dome units, no more than 6-inches in diameter and no taller than 6-inches

All property owners are encouraged to register their private security cameras with www.safecamnola.com. Registration may assist the Police Department in obtaining recorded footage of a crime, identifying a suspect and aiding in a criminal prosecution.

The installation of a large-scale box ("shoebox") camera and/or supplemental signage is not allowed by the VCC.

SECURITY CAMERA INSTALLATION

When selecting the mounting location for a security camera, it is important to balance the need to provide the necessary camera view with an effort to minimize the visual obtrusiveness of the camera unit, its mounting bracket, lighting and wiring. Bear in mind, the camera location must be set high enough that it is not a pedestrian hazard and can not readily be vandalized, but low enough to capture the facial features of a potential suspect who might be wearing a hat or clothing to conceal their identity.

Although the conditions at each building are different, in general, the best location to mount a camera is on the underside of a projecting balcony, gallery, porch ceiling, roof overhang or soffit. To prevent the camera from becoming an object visually "dangling" from the projection's edge, a camera should be mounted no more than half of the projection's depth from the building wall. (On a 2-foot overhang, the camera can be no more than 1-foot from the building wall.) On a building without a projection, or where the projection is too high to allow a security camera to be effective, the installation of an appropriately placed wall-mounted camera is an alternative.

Whether mounting on the underside of a projection or on a wall surface, the housing, hood and bracket of each camera should be as small and unobtrusive as possible and painted to match the adjacent building material. Similarly, the visibility of exposed conduit and wiring should be minimized and painted to match the adjacent building material.

These dome-style cameras are mounted under a projecting canopy. Their housings are painted to match the canopy, minimizing their visibility.

- **"Ceiling-Mounted" Camera Locations:** A dome-style, lipstick or bullet-style camera can be mounted on the "ceiling" or underside of a projecting balcony, gallery, porch, roof overhang or soffit no more than half of the distance of the projection from the face of the building wall
- **Wall-Mounted Dome-Style Camera Locations:** A dome-style camera may be mounted on an exterior wall a minimum of 8-feet, 6-inches above the sidewalk
- **Wall-Mounted Lipstick- or Bullet-Style Camera Locations:** A lipstick or bullet-style camera may be mounted on a wall a minimum of 9-feet above the sidewalk or a maximum of 18-inches below the bottom of the balcony, gallery, porch ceiling, roof overhang or soffit

SECURITY CAMERA GUIDE

The VCC requires submission of the following information for the review of each proposed security camera:

- Manufacturer's specification sheets which include size and finish of the camera(s) and mounting bracket(s)
- Detailed drawings and/or annotated photographs with the proposed location of the camera(s), bracket(s) and all exposed exterior wiring components clearly shown
- Elevations of existing architectural elements and all adjacent elements and details around the area(s) proposed for camera installation
- Details of any other associated aspect of the system such as lighting or an alarm

THE VCC RECOMMENDS:

- Using a wireless camera or security device whenever possible
- Using the smallest, most discreetly located security camera possible
- Locating mounting hardware for a camera in a mortar joint in a masonry wall, or at a flat stucco or non-decorative portion of wood siding or millwork
- Locating the security camera to allow capture of facial features below a hat or concealing clothing
- Understanding the lighting requirements for a proposed security camera

THE VCC REQUIRES:

- Mounting hardware and camera accessories, such as a hood or infrared (IR) illuminator, sized so that they are not more apparent than the camera itself
- Minimizing the amount of exposed wiring and conduit
- Installing exposed wiring and conduit along the inside a corner of a building surface, such as along a gallery or balcony purlin at the deck line
- Painting exposed camera housing, hood, IR illuminator, conduit and wiring to match the adjacent building surface
- Submitting to the VCC for review the information on all integral lighting and/or alarm elements, etc., housed in or co-joined with the camera

THE VCC DOES NOT ALLOW:

- "Webcam" live-internet-feed or an entertainment-oriented camera with no proven security application
- A private security camera to be mounted on the column or post of a gallery or porch, or on a lamp post
- A large box-style "shoebox" camera
- A bullet-style camera on a building without a significant overhang
- An inoperable camera, mounting equipment or conduit – All existing inoperable cameras, mounting equipment, and conduit must be removed

Exterior lighting and/or a security device typically requires the installation of wiring. As more wiring, piping and conduit is added, a potentially hazardous condition is created and the overall appearance may become cluttered. Abandoned wiring, piping and conduit should be removed.

INSTALLATION OF CONDUIT & WIRING

Many of the devices installed at the exterior of a building require wiring. Wiring is generally installed in a conduit, or thin metal pipe, with a junction box(es). When the wiring or conduit is poorly installed, it can be both physically detrimental to historic building fabric and visually obtrusive. With advancements in wireless technology, some devices no longer require wiring. Wireless technology is encouraged by the VCC because it minimizes damage to historic building fabric and is generally less costly to install.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lighting information included in this *Guidelines* section is extracted from the *Exterior Lighting Design Guidelines* and *Site Lighting Study*, prepared by Tillotson Design Associates, April 2013, with the permission of the Vieux Carré Commission Foundation who holds the copyright on the materials.

The Lighting Guidelines were adopted by the VCC on November 6, 2013.

For a more detailed analysis, please refer to the VCC website at www.nola.gov/vcc for original publications.

The vertical portion of the wiring is concealed by the downspout. The remaining conduit, junction boxes and cameras are painted to match the wall surface.

CONDUIT & WIRING INSTALLATION GUIDE

THE VCC REQUIRES:

- Using wireless technology whenever possible
- Installing holes for conduit and wiring penetration and mounting at a mortar joint in a masonry wall or at flat stucco or non-decorative portion of wood siding or woodwork
- Minimizing the amount of exposed wiring and conduit
- Installing exposed wiring and conduit along the inside corner of a building surface, such as along a gallery or balcony purlin at the deck line
- Recessing or concealing all conduit under or behind a building eave and painting it to match the mounting surface
- Installing all wiring and conduit to meet applicable code requirements and surface-mounting it around a perimeter joist, unless a more discrete or concealed solution exists
- Removing all abandoned or non-functional equipment, wiring, conduit and/or piping

Lighting Review	
Remove lighting, conduit, wiring or junction box; Install lighting that meets the *Guidelines*	1 2 3 Staff
Install lighting that does not meet the *Guidelines*	1 2 3 Architectural Committee

Security Camera Review	
Install a private camera that meets the *Guidelines;* Remove an existing security camera, conduit, wiring or junction box	1 2 3 Staff
Install a private camera that does not meet the *Guidelines*	1 2 3 Architectural Committee

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www.nola.gov/vcc

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